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SECTIONS AND ROUND TABLES

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES SECTION

The Agricultural Libraries Section held two meetings, Lucy E. Fay, chairman, presiding. In the absence of the secretary, Mary G. Lacy, Anna Dewees was asked to act as secretary.

First Session

At the first session on June 27, Prof. Charles A. Keffer, director of the Division of Agricultural Extension, University of Tennessee, addressed the Section on THE PLACE OF THE LIBRARY IN A PROGRAM OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.* He said:

Any national program of agricultural development must include the library, both as a practical aid to the farm business and as an abiding source of interest and culture in rural life.

We can not hope for a library—hardly for a well filled book shelf—in every country home; hence provision must be made for community, county, state, or institutional library service through which country people may secure promptly and at minimum cost the use of the books they need.

More than the city library, the rural library must be amply provided with books of a technical nature, that will aid farmers in their problems of soil fertility, crop production, livestock management, and marketing. Even more than men engaged in industrials, the farmer needs such help. Because of his isolation, he is a pronounced individualist.

In general reading the outstanding need of the rural family is to form the reading habit; hence the libraries of rural circulation should be replete with attractive books that will invite the reader. They should be quite as entertaining as informative, and they must recognize the value of the simple word.

They should compass the entire range of literature. The farmer may be a serious minded man, intent on facts, but the farm boy and the farm girl also are to be considered: poetry, fiction and travel are quite as necessary as economics, history and biography among books for farm families.

*Abstract.

The division of extension in the colleges of agriculture, by virtue of their varied experience and the nature of their organization, should be helpful in making plans for book distribution in rural communities.

Second Session

The second session was held on the afternoon of June 30. The program was divided into three parts: (1) ORGANIZATION, (2) ADMINISTRATION and (3) EXTENSION SERVICE IN AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES. The chairman spoke of the survey of state agricultural college and experiment station libraries which had been made by Charlotte A. Baker and Miss E. A. Dilts of Colorado, and Lucy M. Lewis of Oregon, and pointed out that the program of the session was based on the findings of that survey. The discussion of the ORGANIZATION of agricultural libraries was led by Claribel R. Barnett, who, in her introductory remarks, said that agricultural college work develops certain problems not found in general college work, and the same is true of agricultural college libraries. This fact had been forcibly brought out by the survey of them made last year. It is important that agricultural librarians see their work in relation to the policies and problems of the various departments of the institution. The purpose of the afternoon's discussion should be to arrive at some fundamental principles which later may be applied to individual problems. Every librarian should formulate a policy and have it down in writing. It will, of course, be changed to meet changing conditions, and to satisfy one's growing vision of the work. A written policy helps to clarify one's own ideas, often answers unexpected questions, and, if presented to professors and heads of departments, will help to give them a sympathetic understanding of the work of the library and of its problems.

Miss Barnett pointed out that there are three types of agricultural college libraries:

1. The experiment station library kept sep-

arate from the college library and devoted somewhat exclusively to the use of the station workers, as is the case in Virginia.

2. The agricultural college and experiment station combined in a single agricultural library and kept separate from the university library. Wisconsin and Minnesota are of this type.

3. College and station collections of agricultural literature consolidated with the agricultural college or university collections in general and administered as one unit. This is the plan in Oregon.

Which of these types is the best it is difficult to say arbitrarily. Advantages and disadvantages are connected with each. However, when the topography of the campus and the location of the buildings are such as to make the third type feasible, the balance of the arguments are in its favor.

It was pointed out that the field of research to be covered in the collections of the college library is necessarily determined in a large measure by the amount of money at the disposal of the librarian for the purchase of books and periodicals. The students' needs must come first because the education of students is the reason for the existence of the college, but no librarian in an institution where research work is done, could be satisfied not to be able to supply at least some of the needs of the research workers. The librarian should be a recognized member of the faculty, both for the sake of the students and the faculty. He should be a member of the committee on station, college and extension publications and might well assist in the care of mailing lists.

In the discussion which followed, H. S. Green of the Massachusetts Agricultural College read the library policy of that institution. Grace Derby of Kansas and Lucy E. Fay both advocated centralized collections, while Olive Jones of Ohio stated that the needs of the Ohio State University are more adequately met by departmental collections.

The discussion of the second part of the program, ADMINISTRATION, was led by Olive Jones. The selection and purchase of books was discussed by P. L. Windsor of the University of Illinois who gave a helpful account of the procedure at that institution. He

stated that the tendency is to leave more and more of the funds assigned to the college of agriculture to the use of the library committee of the college which is very desirable.

H. O. Severance of the University of Missouri explained that in Missouri the state appropriates funds for the library. The University library buys general books, and the books of special interest to a department are purchased at the request of that department until the quota set aside by the library for the department is spent.

The discussion of bulletin material brought forth the fact that most libraries keep two or more sets of bulletins. Several strongly advocated keeping a duplicate set arranged by subject. Mrs. Linda E. Landon of the Michigan Agricultural College reported that she had a collection of duplicates and would be glad to supply missing numbers as far as possible. She will also place libraries on the mailing list to receive extension publications.

The discussion of the third section of the program, EXTENSION, was led by H. S. Green, librarian of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. In his introductory remarks Mr. Green stated that the publication of library leaflets or book lists is a great aid in spreading information about extension work. Discussion brought out that county agents, home demonstration workers and college extension service workers can be of the greatest help in finding the people who need and want the extension service of the library. E. Kathleen Jones of the Massachusetts Department of Education described library extension work in that state and outlined the plans for the use next year of the new county fair method of bringing books to the attention of the visitors to the fair. There will not be, as heretofore, a book booth, but a few books, some free bulletins and some lists of books and bulletins in various exhibition booths. Poultry books will be placed with the poultry exhibit, canning instructions and garden books with fruits and vegetables. In the house-keeping equipment booth there will be novels, poems and various cultural books with a poster advocating the purchase of the equipment and the reading of the books.

W. P. Lewis, librarian of the New Hampshire State College, presented a report on the

financial situation of the *Agricultural Index*, which stated that with very few exceptions librarians have paid the increased price with a good grace and have written letters expressing their appreciation of the value of the *Index* and their willingness to do their part to keep it going.

Miss Barnett chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented a resolution on the death of Eunice R. Oberly which was ordered to be printed and a copy sent to the family.

Miss Barnett also announced the plan for a memorial in the form of an annual or bi-

ennial prize for the best bibliography in the field of agriculture or the natural sciences which will probably be administered by the American Library Association.

Upon the report of Lydia K. Wilkins, chairman of the Nominations Committee, H. O. Severance, librarian of the University of Missouri, was elected chairman for the next meeting and Mary G. Lacy, librarian, Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, secretary.

ANNA DEWEES,
Acting Secretary.

CATALOG SECTION

The Catalog Section met on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, Mrs. Jennie Thornburg Jennings of the Public Library, St. Paul, presiding. Ruth Rosholt of the Minneapolis Public Library acted as secretary.

First Session

The chair appointed the following committees:

Committee on Nominations, Adelaide F. Evans of the Detroit Public Library, chairman; Clara P. Briggs, Harvard College Library; and C. H. Hastings, Library of Congress.

Committee on Resolutions, Harriet E. Howe, Simmons College, chairman; Wilhelmina E. Carothers, Minnesota Historical Society Library; Amy C. Moon, St. Paul Public Library; Helen B. Sutliff, Stanford University Library; and Agnes S. Hall, Denver Public Library.

Committee on Recruiting of Catalogers to confer with the general Recruiting Committee of the A.L.A., Grace Hill, Public Library, Kansas City, chairman; Esther A. Smith, University of Michigan Library; Marion I. Warden, Louisville Public Library.

The chair read a letter from W. Dawson Johnston, director of the American Library in Paris, suggesting the extension of the use of printed cards in European libraries and offering his co-operation. The chair appointed as a committee to consider Dr. Johnston's proposal, Charles Martel, Library of Congress, chairman; Mildred M. Tucker, Harvard University Library; and Clement W. Andrews,

librarian of the John Crerar Library, Chicago.

The results of a widely distributed questionnaire on cataloging were discussed in an address on

THE CATALOGING SITUATION*

BY FRANK K. WALTER, *Librarian, University of Minnesota*

To the question "What recent changes, if any, have you noticed in the difficulty of obtaining catalogers?" 40 libraries replied that they saw little or no change. Fourteen find increased difficulty in getting *good* catalogers while 16 notice less trouble in this respect than a year ago. Several avoid trouble by recruiting their catalog forces from their apprentice classes.

Most of those who report increased difficulty in obtaining good catalogers lay the blame on low library salaries generally. On the other hand, the replies as a whole show that the salary schedule is not always responsible. Many libraries whose salaries are below average report much less trouble than do libraries who pay considerably more. The special qualifications required of catalogers have something to do with this question as the libraries which insist on high quality of work usually have more trouble finding people able to maintain the standard. Scarcity of competent help is peculiar to no special type of library. Public, reference, college

*Abstract.